

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 25, 2020

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Pastor Roger Wills, Trinity Free Methodist Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

A Proclamation of the Town of Merrillville that the month of February 2020 is “Black History Month” in the Town of Merrillville. Madame Clerk-Treasurer read the Proclamation for Black History Month, and Councilman White thanked the town for acknowledging it. Councilwoman Uzelac seconded it and Councilman Hardaway said this is horrible that we are doing this the end of February when we should be doing it at the end of January. President Bella said good point. Approval motion carries.

Letter from Town Engineering Administrator endorsing Core Construction’s recommendation to approve payment for application #2 to various vendors for work completed at the Merrillville Community Center. Approval motion carries.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval for February 25, 2020.

Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2020.
Approval motion carries.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE: Councilman White

Need more budget information I asked Pat nothing was given. Councilman Pettit said only had one meeting last year.

PUBLIC WORKS: Councilman Minchuk

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Councilwoman Uzelac said they had a workshop to work on 28 items but their still working on them.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS: Councilwoman Uzelac no report

PUBLIC SAFETY: Councilman Minchuk said the process for a new police chief is in motion. Councilman Hardaway got an email from Senator Melton saying there will be a turning lane and turning light on 57th Cleveland.

PARKS & RECREATION: Councilwoman Uzelac sent Vickie out to U.S. 30 and Whitcomb, there’s a house with a falling fence that needs repaired.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Councilman White is having a meeting next month with the Lake County Solid Waste District. I want to see how much waste Merrillville is putting out.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS & CENSUS 2020: Councilman Pettit asked Nickolas what we are doing with the census? The t-shirts, banners, yard signs. President Bella gave Councilman Pettit and Councilman White boxing gloves to use for the census challenge. Councilman Pettit to challenge Mayor Uran.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: No Report

UTILITY LIAISONS: No Report

ABANDONED PROPERTIES: Councilman White

TOWN IDENTITY & BEAUTIFICATION:

Councilwoman Uzelac had no report

COMMUNITY & RECREATION CENTER: No Report

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT –Department Heads

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING: (Discussion and Roll Call)

Ordinance 20-01, (Discussion, Public Comment and Roll Call Vote)

An ordinance amending ordinance nos. 12-35 and 13-04, being, “An ordinance establishing a registration and inspection programs for rental housing units located within the Town of Merrillville and establishing minimum standards for rental housing with the Town of Merrillville” and repealing all Town code sections and ordinances, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith.

None by Councilman White, seconded by Councilman Spann, Councilman Hardaway voted no.

6-1 motion carries.

Ordinance 20-02, (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

Amendment of Salary Ordinance creating a new position in the Clerk’s office of Payroll Administrator. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 20-03. A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana reestablishing Cumulative Capital Development Fund pursuant to Indiana Code 36-9 15.5 Motion by Councilman Minchuk, seconded by Councilman White for approval Resolution 20-03. Published in paper. Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS 20-04, (Discussion and Roll Call Vote)

Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana encumbering monies from the 2019 budget into the 2020 year. Councilwoman Uzelac questioned what it means. Councilman Pettit wanted to know 250,000 General fund/Equipment and what fund that was coming from? Motion carries.

RESOLUTIONS 20-08, (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A Resolutions of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana approving of the designation of any two (2) members of the Redevelopment Commission as an authorized representative. Motion carries.

RESOLUTION 20-09, (Discussion and Voice Vote)

A resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana to place a temporary order on the Chief of Police limiting non-emergency departmental personnel changes, SOP changes, additions or demotions during the transitional period prior to his scheduled retirement date. Councilman Minchuk explained that they advertised for the new Police Chief if anyone has major expenses they could get ahold of the council. Motion carries.

BZA ACTIONS:

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT: Williams thanked us for helping, no one else would help. On the 19th the alarm went off the fire dept. came but our alarm didn’t go off. If there had been a fire we all would have been gone. Mr. Williams is thankful for the Police Dept. Fire Dept. was there on the 19th did some inspections and found a few violations.

Bob Davis from Dave’s Asphalt and Paving, worked for the Town of Merrillville for 15 years. I would like a meeting with the Public Works Dept. and you’re Council about my contract. You all have my number I haven’t changed it in 15 years.

Chaplain Col. Dagger recently retired and has a 10 kid’s large family. He is running for Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Board of Zoning and Appeals meeting February 26 at 6:30p.m.
Storm water Management Board Meeting March 3 at 4:30 p.m.
Abandoned and Blighted Properties Committee Meeting March 3 at 5:30 p.m.
Plan Commission Workshop March 3 at 6:30 p.m.
MCC meeting Thursday March 5, at 5:00 p.m.
Town Council Meeting March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Rick Bella, President

Kelly White Gibson, Clerk-Treasurer